

MINNESOTA HISTORY / ARCHITECTURE INVENTORY FORM
NORTHFIELD COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Rice County, Minnesota

PROPERTY LOCATION	
Property Name: Jacob Sitze Building Other: Hulbert's Block	Inventory No.: RC-NFC-297
Address: 300 Division Street, Northfield, MN	PIN: 2231350027
QTR/QTR/T/R/S: SW SW Section 31 T112N R19W	
USGS Quad: Northfield, Minnesota	Plat Name: Original Town Block River Lots Lot 8
UTM Z 15: 487275E, 4922701N NAD 83	

PROPERTY INFORMATION	
Construction Date: 1886	Style: Italianate
Historic Use: Confectionary and plumbing shop	Current Use: commercial
Property Type: commercial	Historic Context: "Commerce, 1856-1945"
Architect/Builder	Survey Name: Northfield Historic District Survey Revision Project, 2016
Previous NRHP Status: Contributing to Northfield Commercial Historic District	NRHP Recommendation: Contributing to Northfield Commercial Historic District
Form Prepared by: C. Zellie Landscape Research LLC	Survey Date: 3/2016



2016, looking west



ca. 1900



ca. 1925

Description

The Sitze Building is a two-story, flat-roofed commercial building that faces east on Division Street, and the rear fronts the Cannon River and Cannon River Commons. The building has a shallow corbel course lining the roofline. The cornice originally had a central peak, which was removed at some point. It has recently been replicated. "John Sitze" and "1886" has been painted on the peaked cornice and brick panel at the roofline. This treatment replicates that shown in a ca. 1900 photography (Northfield Historical Society). There is a corbel course below, and a decorative dogtooth brick stringcourse. The historic façade, or an interpretation of it, was rehabilitated in 2002 for the Scandinavian Marketplace by Steve and Jenny Green (City of Northfield Building Permit Records). The remodeling from the 1950s with glass block, aluminum-framed windows, and brick infill under the modern display window now has painted brick and a full-width storefront system of large windows and double-leaf wood doors. A glass transom surmounts the system above a signband.

History

This building has had many combinations of ground-floor retail and second-floor office or apartment use. It originally housed the Jacob Sitze plumbing shop in the basement, and Eliza Sitze's candy shop on the first floor. Sitze (ca. 1855-1920), a native of Ohio, was born to German parents (U.S. Census). His son, John Sitze (1881-?), was also a plumber. It subsequently housed the confectionary of L. Hauck, Mrs. J. L. Johnson, a dressmaker, and the poultry business of G. H. Ordway. The N. Freiburg Drug Store (early

Historic photographs: Northfield Historical Society

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1900s), Mathewson's Dry Cleaning Pantoreum (1910), a jewelry and watch repair shop (1911), Mabon Land Company (ca. 1912-18), Bon Marche's Laundry (1919-56), and Harmon's Photography (1956-ca. 2011) were subsequent tenants or owners. Mabon's (ca. 1913) apparently enlarged the second floor at the rear. Harmon's appears to have introduced a modern storefront. These changes were removed when the building was renovated by Steven and Jenny Green for the Scandinavian Marketplace in 2011 (Northfield News 11/20/11).

Significance and Historic Context(s)

This building is associated with the second period of Northfield's commercial development, from ca. 1880 to 1900, when 29 of the 65 historic district buildings were constructed. It is associated with the Northfield historic context, "Commerce, 1856-1945" (Northfield Preservation Plan, 1992).

Evaluation

This property was listed on the NRHP in 1979 as contributing to the Northfield Commercial Historic District. It continues to retain historic significance and good integrity and remains contributing to the district.

References

"Northfield Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1979.

Edwins, Steve, ed. *Northfield Downtown Guidebook*. Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission, 1982, 30.

Northfield News. *All About Northfield, Minn: Directory of Name and Business Firms, Information in Regard to the City*. Northfield: Northfield News, 1889.

Northfield Historical Society. Photograph and research files. Northfield, Minnesota.

Sanborn Map & Publishing Company, New York. Northfield plates, 1886-1943.

Zellie, Carole. "Northfield Heritage Preservation Plan." Prepared for the Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission, Northfield, Minn. by Landscape Research, 1992.

Sanborn and USGS Maps



Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., 1930, updated to 1943.



USGS: Northfield 1984.